

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

Agenda Item: Proposed 2012 & 2013 Furbearer Seasons and 2012 Quotas

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Proposed Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 minutes

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Background

Furbearer season structure is defined by FWP Commission rule every two years. Furbearer quotas are set annually. Season structure for 2012 and 2013, and annual quotas for 2012, are included below. All other season elements and quotas are proposed unchanged from 2011.

- Close furbearer trapping in the Bass Creek Special Recreation Area in Region 2.
- Clarify language regarding snares under **Public Land Trailheads**. Clarify language to prohibit snares within 1000 feet of public land trailheads.
- Replace otter carcass collection with skull collection only. Otter skulls will continue to be collected to provide teeth for aging used in population analysis.
- Remove the **Special Marten Regulation** intended to minimize incidental take of lynx. Retain the special regulation restricting the use of larger body grip traps in the fisher and wolverine regulations. Smaller marten sets do not represent potential for incidental take of lynx.
- Modify bobcat quotas in Regions 2 and 6: Region 2 increase from 100 to 180; Region 6 decrease from 125 to 90.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public comment period for any adopted proposal will run through 5 p.m., July 9, with Final adoptions at the Aug. 2 commission meeting in Helena.

Alternative and Analysis

Proposals provide sound furbearer management to include trapping with consideration of comments and concerns from other user groups. The intent is to reasonably *share* the landscape, associated resources and opportunities to the extent possible. Proposals for specific changes to bobcat quotas include current information assembled by regional FWP staff.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale

Recommend maintaining 2011 structure and quotas except for the proposed changes above. This is consistent with existing information and represents reasonable and appropriate consideration of user conflict and the continued presence of contemporary research and other data in furbearer management and restoration opportunities that include trapping.

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt the proposed 2012 and 2013 trapping regulations & furbearer seasons and 2012 quotas as proposed by FWP.
